

Applic. No. 10/629,927

Amdt. dated December 22, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 22, 2004

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-17 remain in the application. Claims 1, 15, and 17 have been amended.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-5, 10, 15, and 17 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Takeyama (JP 4 307 096) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 1 and on page 12, lines 1-6 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 15, and 17 call for, *inter alia*:

the outer enclosure being in the form of a grille having a continuous surface in a circumferential direction of the drum.

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The Takeyama reference discloses a clothes holding rack including two side lattices (52), a bottom lattice (51), and a rear lattice (53). Hinges allow the side lattices and rear lattice to be folded into one plate by way of the hinges. In the erected state, cross bars (11) extend from one side lattice (52) to the other side lattice (52). Fig. 2 of Takeyama shows that the cross bars (11) are used to suspend items of clothing within the clothes holding rack.

The reference does not show the outer enclosure being in the form of a grille having a continuous surface in a circumferential direction of the drum, as recited in claims 1, 15, and 17 of the instant application. The Takeyama reference discloses a clothes holding rack for a dryer, which has side lattices, a bottom lattice and a rear lattice. Takeyama discloses that the top of the clothes holding rack is open and includes cross bars extending between the side lattices. The cross bars are used for suspending items of clothing and allow the items of clothing to hang in the clothes holding rack.

The Takeyama reference does not disclose an outer enclosure in the form of a grille having a continuous outer surface in the circumferential direction of the drum. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the outer enclosure is in the form of a grille having a continuous surface in a circumferential direction of the drum.

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In item 5 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 6 and 11-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Takeyama (JP 4 307 096) in view of Barnard (U.S. Patent No. 4,617,743) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Barnard reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Takeyama. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 6 and 11-13 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is appreciatively noted from item 7 on page 3 of the Office action, that claim 16 is allowed.

It is appreciatively noted from item 8 on page 3 of the Office action, that claims 7-9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have not been amended as indicated by the Examiner, as the claims are believed to be patentable in their existing form.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 15, or 17. Claims 1, 15, and 17 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately

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dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of three months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$1020 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

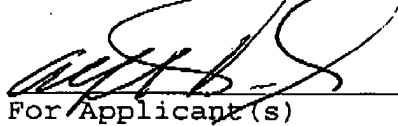
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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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